

## Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY 22670 2/9/76

APPROVED BY ,EA - MR. ATHERTON

NEA/ARP - MR. DICKMAN

NEA - MR. SOBER

DOD/OSD/ISA - COL THOMPSON (SUBS)

PM/SAS - MR. KEENE (INFO)

S/S - MR. MACK

NEA - MR. DAY

----- 128669

P 100254Z FEB 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

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EXDIS, FOR AMB PICKERING FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, JO, SA

SUBJECT: HAWK-VULCAN FINANCING: USG ROLE

REF: AMMAN 601, 660, 694, JIDDA 851

1. WE GOT IN TOUCH WITH SAUDI EMBASSY DCM LAST WEEK TO ASK WHETHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAG HAD BEEN RECEIVED ON HAWK/VULCAN FINANCING ISSUE. IN SAYING THAT NOTHING HAD YET ARRIVED, SAUDI DCM ASSURED US HE WOULD KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR INSTRUCTIONS IN THIS REGARD. SAUDI AMBASSADOR DID NOT MENTION SUBJECT IN HIS FEB 6 DISCUSSION WITH ME.

2. IN LIGHT OF THE LATEST MESSAGES ON SUBJECT (REFTELS), WE HAVE BEEN REVIEWING THE APPARENT COMMUNICATIONS DIFFI-

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CULTIES BETWEEN THE SAUDIS AND THE JORDANIANS. WE SUSPECT

THAT THE JORDANIANS AND SAUDIS STILL HAVE A LOT TO SORT OUT AMONG THEMSELVES, INCLUDING POSSIBILITY MENTIONED JIDDA'S 785 THAT SAUDIS MAY ASK JORDANIANS TO FIND SOME THIRD PARTY CONTRIBUTORS FOR PART OF THE BILL. FOR THIS REASON WE BELIEVE WE MUST RESIST FOR THE TIME BEING RIFAI'S REPEATED EFFORTS TO TURN THE FINANCING QUESTION INTO AN EXCLUSIVE US-SAUDI ISSUE, THE LATEST EXAMPLE OF WHICH WAS HIS CLAIM THAT FAHD HAD SAID THE PROBLEM NOW WAS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND SAUDI ARABIA.

3. DIFFICULT AS THE TASK MAY BE, BELIEVE YOU MUST DO YOUR BEST TO DEVELOP A BETTER COMMON UNDERSTANDING WITH RIFAI ON THE RESPECTIVE U.S. AND JORDANIAN ROLES. RECOGNIZING THE KING'S CONCERNS ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS OF THE U.S.-JORDANIAN RELATIONSHIP WHICH YOU HAVE REPORTED SEPTELS, YOU SHOULD MAKE CLEAR THAT OUR RELUCTANCE TO ACT AS JORDAN'S AGENT AT THIS POINT STEMS NOT FROM ANY DESIRE TO SIGNAL A COOLING IN OUR RELATIONSHIP BUT RATHER FROM OUR VIEW THAT THE SAUDIS WOULD VERY LIKELY RESENT OUR INTERVENTION, PARTICULARLY AT THIS TIME WHEN--BY ALL ACCOUNTS--THEY STILL ARE MULLING OVER VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE DEAL. JORDANIAN FEARS OF SPOOKING THE SAUDIS THROUGH TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON THEIR PART ARE ALL THE MORE REASON FOR US ALSO TO MOVE CAUTIOUSLY. AT THE SAME TIME, WE STAND READY AT AN INSTANT'S NOTICE TO PROVIDE WHATEVER INFORMATION OR CLARIFICATION THE SAUDIS DESIRE, HERE OR IN JIDDA. RIFAI SHOULD ALSO BE INFORMED THAT WE IN NO WAY FEEL DEFENSIVE ABOUT THE FACT THAT CONTRACTS HAVE BEEN LET AND OTHER PREPARATIONS HAVE GONE FORWARD. THESE ACTIONS WERE TAKEN IN ORDER TO MEET THE EXTREMELY TIGHT DEADLINES WHICH THE JORDANIANS WANT AND TO KEEP COSTS WITHIN THE ESTIMATES WE PREVIOUSLY HAVE PROVIDED. IT COMES DOWN TO THE FACT THAT WE ARE TRYING TO DO ALL WE CAN TO BE HELPFUL TO THE JORDANIANS WITH THE SINGLE RESERVATION THAT WE PREFER TO HAVE THE JORDANIANS IN THE FOREFRONT OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE SAUDI FUNDING.

4. PLEASE EXPLAIN TO RIFAI THAT WE OF COURSE WISH TO REMAIN IN CLOSE TOUCH RE TACTICS AND WILL CONSIDER CAREFULLY ANY OF HIS SUGGESTIONS. YOU MIGHT ASK HIM, HOWEVER, TO DO HIS BEST TO PREVENT THE SAUDIS FROM REGARDING OUR SECRET

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ACTION IN JANUARY AS AN ULTIMATUM--WHICH HE WELL KNOWS IT WAS NOT--SINCE THIS IMPRESSION COULD ONLY PREJUDICE OUR FUTURE EFFORTS TO BE HELPFUL. INGERSOLL

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